

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 081400Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7119
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, MASS, PEDR, BY, BE
SUBJ: BELGIAN EMBASSY COMMENTS ON BAGAZA VISIT

SUMMARY: BELGIAN CHARGE REPORTED TO U.S., FRENCH
WEST GERMAN AND FED REPRESENTATIVES THAT PRESIDENT
BAGAZA HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES OF INCREASED BELGIAN
ASSISTANCE IN TERMS OF FUNDS AND PERSONNEL, HAD
APPROVED HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE BUT
WAS AGAINST MILITARY ACTION IN AFRICA FROM OUTSIDE
IN GENERAL AND HAD ASSERTED THAT CUBAN PRESENCE IN
BURUNDI REPRESENTED NO THREAT TO NEIGHBORS AND
PERMITTED OPPORTUNITY FOR ZAIRE TO CONTACT CUBANS.
END SUMMARY.

1. BELGIAN CHARGE, JUNE 6, INFORMED WEEKLY MEETING
OF BELGIAN, FRENCH, WEST GERMAN, U.S. EMBASSIES
AND FED REPRESENTATIVE OF RESULTS PRESIDENT
BAGAZA'S VISIT TO BRUSSELS AS FOLLOWS:

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2. FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET WF
MINISTER OF
COOPERATION MET WITH BAGAZA TO DISCUSS BURUNDI'S
INTERNAL NEEDS.

3. BAGAZA REFERRED TO THE PAST POLITICAL INSTABILITY
AND THE PAST ETHNIC PROBLEMS IN BURUNDI, REMARKING THAT

THESE QUESTIONS WERE NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD IN EUROPE AND SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO HAVE A BAD EFFECT ON BELGO-BURUNDI COOPERATION. SIMONET REMARKED THAT BURUNDI HAD MADE AN EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE ITS POPULATION AND PROVIDE FOR THEIR WELFARE AND THAT BELGIUM WANTED TO HELP WITHOUT INTERFERENCE. THERE WOULD BE A NEW THRUST TO BELGO-BURUNDI COOPERATION IN THE FORM OF INCREASED CREDITS FOR BURUNDI AND MORE BELGIAN PERSONNEL (COOPERANTS). BAGAZA EMPHASIZED THAT BURUNDI COULD NOT HAVE A GLOBAL FOREIGN POLICY BUT ONLY A REGIONAL FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON:

- A. BEING GOOD NEIGHBORS
- B. AVOIDING MEDDLING
- C. AVOIDING COMMENTS IN ITS PRESS OR ON ITS RADIO ABOUT NEIGHBORS
- D. PREVENTING ANY SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AGAINST ITS NEIGHBORS FROM ITS TERRITORY (NOYAUTAGE).

4. SIMONET REQUESTED BAGAZA'S VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA AND SHABA AND HIS IDEAS ON WHAT ROLE EUROPE SHOULD PLAY IN REGARD TO THESE QUESTIONS. HE CITED THE UNEASINESS PROVOKED BY THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA. HE ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION AMONG THE GREAT LAKES' STATES.

5. BAGAZA REPLIED THAT THERE WAS A COMMON WILL TO REACH AGREEMENT ON REGIONAL COOPERATION BUT THAT IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS HARD FOR THE AFRICAN NEIGHBOR STATES TO OPEN THEIR BORDERS FOR COMMERCE WHEN THEY DID NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO APPLY SERIOUS CONTROLS TO SUCH COMMERCE.

6. CONCERNING CUBA BAGAZA SAID THAT:

A. BURUNDI SUPPORTED INTERVENTION OF CUBA AND THE SOVIET UNION TO BRING ABOUT DECOLONIZATION THROUGH MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND THE SUPPORT OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

B. BURUNDI WAS NOT PREPARED TO SUPPORT SUCH INTERVENTION IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH WERE ALREADY INDEPENDENT BECAUSE THAT WOULD AMOUNT TO SUPPORTING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

C. BURUNDI OPPOSED THE ATTACK ON THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE AND WAS AGAINST MILITARY ACTION FROM OUTSIDE TO HELP PROTECT ZAIRE BUT HAD NOTHING AGAINST TEMPORARY INTERVENTION FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS.

D. BAGAZA, AGAIN REFERRING TO THE CUBANS, SAID CUBAN DIPLOMATS IN BUJUMBURA REPRESENTED NO DANGER FOR

ZAIRE OR OTHER NEIGHBORS OF BURUNDI AND
THEIR PRESENCE EVEN OUGHT TO BE CONSIDERED
USEFUL AS PERMITTING POSSIBLE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ZAIROIS AND
CUBAN REPRESENTATIVES.

7. CONCERNING RHODESIA, BAGAZA SAID THAT THE IAN SMITH
INTERNAL SOLUTION COULD ONLY HAVE TEMPORARY RESULTS,
THAT RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE COULD BE WON BY A
COMBINATION OF WAR AND NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT BURUNDI
SUPPORTED THE ANGOL-AMERICAN PLAN. SIMONET CITED THE
DANGER OF CIVIL WAR IF THE PLAN FAILED.

8. BAGAZA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH BELGIAN INTENTION
TO AUGMENT ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI BOTH FINANCIALLY AND IN
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PERSONNEL.

9. BAGAZA REFERRED TO HISTORICAL LINKS WITH BELGIUM
AND SAID HE PREFERRED BILATERAL TO MULTILATERAL AID BUT
HAD NO OBJECTION TO AID FINANCED BY THE ARABS
ADMINISTERED BY THE BELGIANS (REFORESTATION).

10. SIMONET SAID THE BELGIANS WERE NOT OPPOSED TO
SUCH COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH THE ARABS. HE ADDED THAT
THE BELGIANS WERE PREPARED TO REVISE THEIR LONG STANDING
BASIC AID AGREEMENT WITH BURUNDI.
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